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FOR PUBLIC WORKS

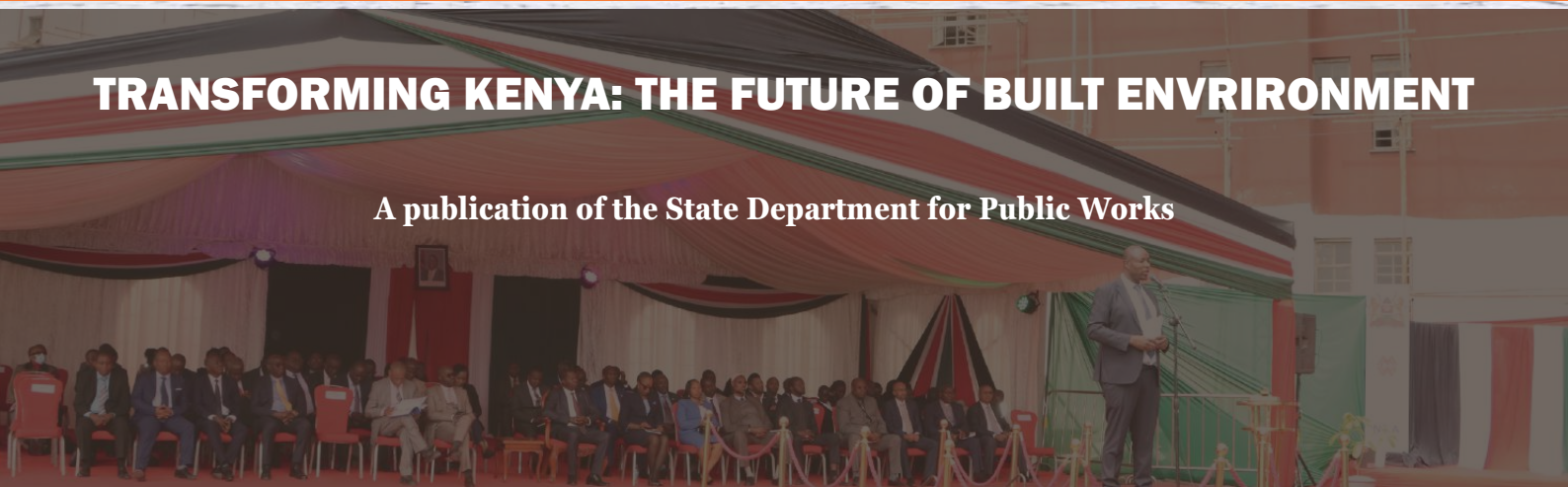
UJENZI Magazine

Issue 01, January 2025



TRANSFORMING KENYA: THE FUTURE OF BUILT ENVIRONMENT

A publication of the State Department for Public Works





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“To facilitate provision, construction and maintenance of quality government buildings and other public works for sustainable socio-economic development.”

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The SDPW Editorial Board invites you to contribute articles for upcoming issues. For more information please visit State Department for Public Works website.

Submission Guidelines

Submissions must be original work, not previously published or under consideration for publication elsewhere.

Articles must be well researched and written to appeal to local and international audience.

The Editorial Board reserves the right to edit and publish all submitted articles in line with existing editorial policies and standards.

All articles should be in Word Document format, atleast 500 words, font type to be used is Times New Roman, Font size 12.

Attach a minimum of four high quality photos with captions to the articles.

Submit your articles to:
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STATE DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC WORKS.

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Message from the **Cabinet Secretary**

CS. Hon. Alice Wahome, EGH

Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development

It is my distinct honour and privilege to introduce the first issue of Ujenzi Magazine, published by the State Department for Public Works. This publication comes at a monumental time in Kenya's built environment, as we drive the transformation of our country's infrastructure investments with an emphasis on innovation, sustainability, and inclusion.

The Ujenzi Magazine will be a valuable resource for knowledge sharing, collaboration, and thought leadership in the construction and built environment sectors. It reflects our mission of advancing excellence in public infrastructure design, construction, and maintenance while promoting long-term socio-economic development. The projects and innovations featured in this issue highlight the State Department of Public Works' remarkable efforts, ranging from contribution in the affordable housing developments and transportation infrastructure revitalisation to the use of modern construction technologies.

The State Department for Public Works is a key player in the implementation of the Affordable Housing Programme, serving as both a strategic partner and the program's largest provider of consultancy services. Our work goes deeper towards creating ecosystems that promote economic growth, stimulate local industries, and create jobs for our youth. As His Excellency, the President William Ruto stated, "Our affordable housing program is more than just homes. It is about creating jobs for our youth, boosting local industries, and providing markets for our entrepreneurs." Every project we oversee contributes to realising this vision, ensuring that Kenya's built environment supports our long-term socioeconomic transformation.



This magazine also highlights our efforts to raise safety standards with the recent promulgation of the National Building Code 2024. The Code establishes contemporary standards for sustainable construction and climate resilience, laying the groundwork for a safer, greener, and more resilient infrastructure. It is our responsibility to ensure that the built environment meets current demands while also preparing for future challenges.

I encourage all stakeholders—professionals, policymakers, and the general public—to engage with the insights presented in this edition. Your contributions, expertise, and ideas are critical as we collaborate to ensure that Kenya's infrastructure accelerates the country's transition to a global leader in sustainable development.

Let us continue to work towards a future that prioritises growth, inclusivity, and shared prosperity for everyone.

Message from the **Principal Secretary**

PS. Hon. Joel Arumonyang, CBS
*Principal Secretary,
 State Department for Public Works*

The State Department for Public Work plays a critical role in guaranteeing Kenyans secure and safe government buildings through strict adherence to the National Building Code and construction standards.

We owe it to the public to fulfill our mandate as a State Department by providing quality and professional services to all our clients. The need to communicate our functions and mandate as a State Department to the public cannot be gainsaid as a reassurance that all government buildings and other infrastructural developments that we have a hand in are safe.

The need to therefore launch the Ujenzi Magazine could not have been done at a better time. It will complement our other communication platforms such as our website, social media space as well as our presence in both electronic and print media.

It is coming at a time when we need all the publicity that we can get for the recently launched National Building Code which is set to revolutionise the design of buildings in the country with the effects of climate change and other technical and technological considerations in mind.

The Magazine will go a long way in supporting our public education and sensitisation of stakeholders on the New National Building Code, its application and implementation across the country.

As one of the implementing Agencies of the Affordable Housing Programme, the State Department is playing a pivotal role to ensure the government delivers on its promise to provide decent and affordable housing to low and middle-income earners in the country.



Our presence in the rural areas is also felt through construction of footbridges which has a huge socio-economic impact, not to mention the development and management of coastline infrastructure such as jetties and sea walls.

The launch of the Ujenzi Magazine will go along way in supporting various government projects and programs. The department's success in service delivery to realize BETA plan is primarily dependant on its technical and administrative staff. To this end, we have reviewed our staff establishment, strengthened, regional offices with focus on the counties as critical service delivery centres. our technical teams will continue to support MDA's in delivery of the department's mandate.

The State Department will continue working with all stake holders and key partners to enrich this magazine by a way of disseminating our best industry practices.

Message from the Works Secretary

QS. Nicholas Mutua



Welcome to this inaugural edition of our magazine where we spotlight the dynamic role of the State Department for Public Works in shaping Kenya's infrastructure and contribution to National Development.

Our mandate, established by Executive Order No. 2 of November 2023, encompasses critical functions such as the Public Works Policy, National Building Inspection, and the Management of Construction Standards and Codes. We coordinate the procurement of common user items, provide project management in building contracts and regulate contractors. Our technical officers continue to provide necessary technical support.

We have dedicated technical professionals that provide comprehensive project management and consultancy services to Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs). We also play a crucial role in dispute resolution both in court and Alternative Dispute Resolutions (ADR) processes, where we provide witness statements and address technical

matters to ensure fair outcomes in arbitral awards and court judgements. Our commitment to high standards is supported by collaborations with key professional bodies such as National Construction Authority (NCA), the Board of Registration of Architects and Quantity Surveyors (BORAQS), the National Building Inspectorate (NBI) and the Kenya Building Research Centre (KBRC) which fosters innovative building materials and technologies.

Additionally, we assist county governments through our regional offices while aligning our major programmes with the BETA Policy of the government. Notable projects featured in this issue include the Centre for Disease Control in Mirangine-Nyandarua County and the Mokowe Jetty in Lamu County.

As you read through this publication, you will gain insights into the significant efforts undertaken by the State Department for Public Works in advancing the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) and our commitment to improving service delivery and affordability across Kenya and ensuring that the benefits of our work reach every corner of the nation. Thank you for your support and interest in our work. Together, we are building a stronger, more sustainable future for Kenya.

Message from the Editorial Chairperson

Christine Songole



Dear Readers,

It is with great pleasure that I introduce this edition of Ujenzi Magazine, the official publication of the State

Department for Public Works. As we continue to drive the national development agenda, the Built Environment and Construction sector remains at the heart of our efforts to build a resilient and sustainable future for our country.

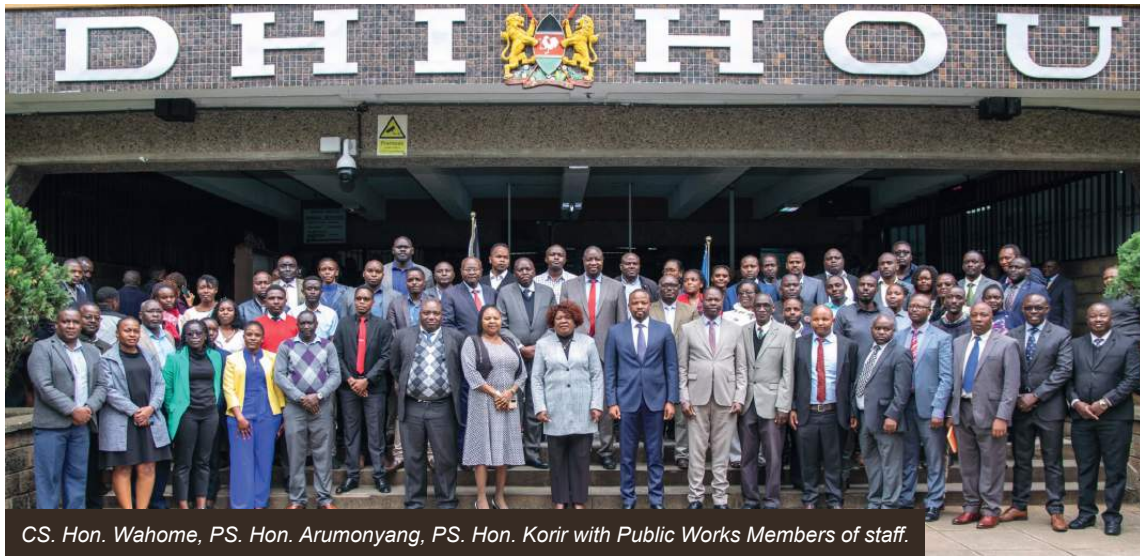
In this issue, we highlight the remarkable projects undertaken by the State Department for Public Works, showcasing our dedication to improving infrastructure, promoting safety standards, and embracing innovation in building technologies. We cover critical topics such as the role of Public

Works in national growth, the impact of sustainable construction practices, and the achievements of our professionals in delivering key projects across the country.

We also focus on the human side of construction, highlighting the skilled workforce, ongoing training programs, and strategic plans from various departments within the State Department that ensure we have the capacity to meet the challenges of tomorrow in the construction sector.

On behalf of the editorial team, I would like to thank you for your continued support and readership. Our mission remains to provide you with valuable insights and updates that reflect the progress and impact of the State Department for Public Works in shaping our nation's development agenda.

CS Hon. **Alice Wahome** Receives Warm **Welcome** As She **Resumes Leadership** at Ministry's **HQ**



CS. Hon. Wahome, PS. Hon. Arumonyang, PS. Hon. Korir with Public Works Members of staff.

By John Kinuthia

Cabinet Secretary Hon. Alice Wahome was given a rousing welcome by staff led by the Principal Secretaries in charge of the three State Departments that make up her Ministry when she resumed duty after being re-appointed to continue serving as CS in the Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development.

She thanked all the staff in the Ministry for delivering on their mandate and promised to continue providing leadership and the necessary support to staff to propel the Ministry to even greater heights. The CS thanked the President for re-appointing her and committed to serve all Kenyans impartially in line with her Ministry's mandate.

Her re-appointment, she noted was an opportunity to focus and reflect more on her duties in the Ministry adding that she would always prioritise issues of national interest. The CS said during her vetting in parliament the issue of land fees increase came

up noting that there was a lot of misinformation surrounding the matter.

She said the ministry conducted a robust public participation exercise on the matter but decried inadequate dissemination of information pertaining to the increase.

The CS called for a clear communication strategy to be put in place to address any such gaps in future. She also thanked all the staff in the ministry for their prayers which she said largely contributed to her getting back her job.

Public Works Principal Secretary Joel Arumonyang' congratulated the CS on her re-appointment saying the move was an affirmation of the faith and trust the President had in her to continue steering the Ministry to achieve its goals. The PS promised to give the CS all the support she needed in driving the Ministry forward.



CS. Hon. Wahome, Public Works PS. Hon. Arumonyang, Lands PS. Hon. Korir with staff members at ministry's HQ.



CS. Hon. Wahome, Public Works PS. Hon. Arumonyang, Lands PS. Hon. Korir

Ministry Participates In The Inaugural Buildings And Climate Global Forum In Paris-France



By Kennedy Matheka

The Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing & Urban Development took part in the Buildings and Climate Global Forum held from March 5th to 9th, 2024, in Paris, France. Co-organized by the French Government and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the forum aimed to advance global efforts to decarbonize the buildings and construction sector, aligning with the Paris Agreement and fostering climate resilience.

The forum attracted over 1,000 participants, including government officials, property developers, academics, and international organizations. Discussions centered around decarbonizing the construction sector, which is responsible for 34% of global energy consumption and 21% of greenhouse gas emissions. Kenya's involvement in the forum was essential to progressing its climate resilience goals in the construction industry. The country participated in ministerial dialogues, thematic sessions, and launched the Buildings Breakthrough Initiative for 2024-2025, reflecting its commitment to international climate goals in the buildings sector.

During the Ministerial Dialogue Meetings on March 7th-8th, a joint pledge known as the "Déclaration de Chaillot" was endorsed, calling for a global shift toward near-zero emissions in the building sector by 2030. Emphasizing the need for international collaboration, discussions focused on innovative construction methods, green value chains, sustainable building materials, and low-carbon procurement practices to reduce carbon emissions and enhance climate-adaptive infrastructure.

Kenya actively engaged in high-level thematic sessions addressing climate risks in developing countries, promoting sustainable construction practices, and fostering carbon-neutral buildings. The Buildings Breakthrough Initiative, launched

during the forum, saw Kenya commit to contributing to the global movement for climate-resilient buildings. The country will co-lead the development of low-carbon procurement alliances, one of the initiative's five priority areas for 2024-2025.

Kenya also took part in the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (Global ABC) General Assembly and the Building Construction 21 Conference. These engagements helped strengthen Kenya's international collaboration on circular construction practices, sustainability, and policy recommendations for decarbonizing the sector. Kenya's nomination to the International Advisory Group for UNEP's flagship climate initiative further underscored its growing role in global climate discussions.

Looking forward, several strategic actions were outlined following Kenya's participation in the forum. These include hosting a National Stakeholders Consultative Forum in May 2024 to develop a roadmap for a decarbonized buildings sector by 2050, drafting a National Policy on Sustainable Buildings, and introducing the Building Standards and Control Bill 2024 to enhance resilience and safety in Kenya's construction sector, in line with climate change adaptation and mitigation goals.

Kenya's participation in the Buildings and Climate Global Forum marked a significant milestone in advancing its climate resilience and decarbonization agenda. Through global collaboration and commitment to international initiatives, Kenya is positioning itself as a leader in sustainable and resilient infrastructure development. Insights from the forum will guide future policies and strategies to address the impacts of climate change on Kenya's built environment.

Advancing Sustainability: Kenya's National Workshop on Green Building Standards



Various Stakeholders pose for a photo during the National Stakeholder Workshop on Green Buildings Standards and Affordable Housing at Radisson Blu Hotel, Nairobi.

By Wangui Mwangi



CS. Wahome giving her Key note speech

Kenya took a bold step toward redefining its construction landscape during the National Stakeholder Workshop on Green Building Standards and Affordable Housing, held on November 27, 2024, at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Nairobi. This key event brought together government officials, industry leaders, and international partners to address sustainable building practices amidst Kenya's rapid urbanization and ambitious Affordable Housing Program.

In her keynote speech, Hon. Alice Wahome, Cabinet Secretary for Lands, Public Works, Housing, and Urban Development, underscored Kenya's rising influence in global sustainability conversations. Fresh from Kenya's leadership role at COP29 and its position as Vice Chair of the Global Intergovernmental Council for Buildings and Climate, she reiterated the government's commitment to fast-tracking green building standards.

Principal Secretary for Public Works, Mr. Joel Arumonyang, reinforced the urgency of adopting sustainable construction practices. He highlighted that the construction industry contributes significantly to global emissions and stressed the need for robust policy frameworks to reduce the sector's carbon footprint while ensuring quality and resilience in buildings.

Discussions of the day highlighted the pressing need for standards

that reduce emissions, enhance resilience, and foster economic growth. Stakeholders explored policy reforms, innovative financing models, and local capacity-building to mainstream green practices in Kenya's construction sector. International partners like the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the Swedish Embassy, and the French Embassy shared global best practices and emphasized the importance of collaboration in achieving Kenya's green housing goals. Key outcomes included forming technical working groups to finalize green building standards and creating an Affordable Housing Green Building Hub to support implementation.

The workshop reaffirmed Kenya's determination to lead sustainable housing development, combining traditional values with modern innovations to ensure a greener, equitable future.



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Decarbonisation Roadmap for Buildings and Construction In Kenya(2026-2050)

By Kennedy Matheka

In August 2024, the Government of Kenya, through the State Department for Public Works, took a significant step towards sustainability by initiating a national workshop focused on development of a decarbonization pathway. This pathway is intended to guide buildings and the construction sector from 2026 to 2050. The consultative workshop, organized with the assistance of the Global Buildings Performance Network (GBPN) and in partnership with essential stakeholders, aimed to establish a strategy on reducing carbon emissions in Kenya's built environment.

In his keynote address, Principal Secretary of the State Department, Hon. Joel Arumonyang, underscored the critical need to meet net-zero targets within our sector, highlighting our commitments as a signatory to the Buildings Breakthrough and the driver to the Nairobi Declaration on Climate Change. This declaration establishes a unified stance for Africa in the global climate change dialogue, asserting that no Nation should have to sacrifice its developmental goals for the sake of climate action. The Principal Secretary also noted that Kenya has made several pledges at other global forums including COP meetings and further compounded the understanding that the Country is set to submit its 3.0 version of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in 2025, which underscores the significance of this roadmap. He reported that the State Department has collaborated with the Ministry of Environment and various state and non-state actors to advance a shared agenda. He expressed gratitude to GBPN for its

partnership and support, as well as for leading the initiative to engage other industry stakeholders in this very important course

During the inaugural consultative meeting, Dr. Peter Graham, Executive Director of GBPN, highlighted the critical need for a decarbonization roadmap for Kenya's built environment. He pointed out that CO2 emissions in Kenya have surged significantly, increasing from 3.9 million tonnes in 1972 to 22.4 million tonnes in 2023, reflecting an average annual growth rate of 3.89%. Given that the built environment accounts for approximately 32% of these emissions, it is essential to focus on this sector to achieve Kenya's climate objectives. Additionally, it was noted that if current trends continue, Africa may surpass the United States as the second-largest emitter from the building sector by 2050.

Kenya has been a pioneer in Africa by implementing comprehensive laws and policies to steer both national and subnational climate initiatives. With development of this roadmap, Kenya has potential to take a leading role in the decarbonization of its built environment in Africa and beyond. GBPN's Africa Programs Lead, Mugure Njendu, emphasized the importance of adopting a people-centered, bottom-up strategy for policy reform. As an initial step in the roadmap, she reported that GBPN convened collaborative working groups comprising various stakeholders, including representatives from Government ministries, professional associations and international partners during the workshop.

There was a shared agreement on the importance of enhancing

participation and increasing awareness of best practices. This roadmap will act as a framework for Kenya to fulfill its zero-emissions commitments, outlining a definitive course toward sustainable housing and infrastructure development.

The initiative is structured into four distinct phases. The initial phase involves identification and establishment of working groups comprising key stakeholders from both the public and private sectors. The second phase focuses on creating baseline assessment to gain insights into Kenya's situational context, which will guide the development of the Roadmap. In the third phase, a collaboratively developed and validated Country Buildings Decarbonization Roadmap will be submitted to the State Department. Lastly, locally led- technical working groups will formulate sector-specific Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets to be incorporated into the 2025 Kenya NDC update.

Kenya has been a pioneer in Africa by implementing comprehensive laws and policies to steer both national and subnational climate initiatives. With development of this roadmap, Kenya has potential to take a leading role in the decarbonization of its built environment in Africa and beyond.

Public Works Participates in the **Launch of Ministerial Strategic Plan 2023-2027**



CS. Hon. Alice Wahome, Works PS Hon. Joel Arumonyang, Lands PS. Hon. Nixon Korir, Housing PS. Hon. Charles Hinga with other Ministry Officials during launch of Ministerial Strategic Plan 2023-2027.

By Hezron Wainaina

The State Department for Public Works stands as a crucial pillar in driving our nation’s development agenda. The Strategic Plan 2023-2027 boldly demonstrates our commitment to accelerating economic growth within the construction industry. This dedication is evident in our focus on developing and maintaining cost-effective public buildings, enhancing industry regulation, and championing environmentally sustainable public works research.

Aligned with Kenya Vision 2030, Medium-Term Plan IV (MTP IV), the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), the East African Community Vision 2050, the African Union Agenda 2063, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, our strategic plan embodies the collective wisdom and aspirations of the State Department and its stakeholders. Our priorities include providing top-tier consultancy services in design, documentation, and supervision of government buildings, developing crucial coastline

infrastructure and pedestrian access, regulating the construction industry, and pioneering research and development in the built environment.

Over the past five years, we’ve made significant strides in supervising construction projects, developing essential infrastructure, and advancing research in construction practices. However, challenges such as inadequate industry regulation, limited human and institutional capacity, financial constraints, rising construction costs, and legal and contractual hurdles have impeded our progress.

Our strategic plan outlines a roadmap to overcome these obstacles and guides the execution of BETA priorities and other critical development initiatives to foster socio-economic transformation. Our ultimate goal as a State Department remains clear: to achieve excellence in regulating, constructing, and maintaining public buildings and works, ensuring a sustainable and prosperous future for all.

Our priorities include providing top-tier consultancy services in design, documentation, and supervision of government buildings, developing crucial coastline infrastructure and pedestrian access, regulating the construction industry, and pioneering research and development in the built environment.



The launch at Nairobi Safari Park

Construction Of Lake Victoria Basin Commission On Track

By Gordon Magak

The Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) headquarters, a vital regional infrastructure project, is currently under construction on a 2.8-acre piece of land along the shores of Lake Victoria. Donated by the Kenyan government in 2016, this land will soon host the new headquarters, which will streamline and enhance the coordination of the Commission's activities across the Great Lakes region.

The construction is being supervised by the State Department for Public Works. Once complete, the headquarters will house multiple departments handling various projects for the Lake Victoria Basin Commission, a key body within the East African Community (EAC).

This project, which is fully funded by the EAC Partner States, represents a significant step toward promoting regional integration through enhanced collaboration and project management.

The LVBC Secretariat, led by Executive Secretary Dr. Masinde Bwire, has committed to ensuring that the construction is delivered efficiently and meets the needs of the region. The EAC Partner States are closely monitoring the project's progress and are eager to see its timely completion.

The headquarters, designed to support the Commission's administrative and operational needs, will feature three main sections: Wing A, Central Core, and Wing B.

- Wing A will contain offices, a library, a boardroom, a kitchen, and an outdoor eating space.
- The Central Core will house the reception areas, staircase, and washrooms.
- Wing B will offer additional office spaces, with an executive area located on the second floor. In addition to the main building, external structures such as a gatehouse, pump house, and generator house will also be part of the facility.

The construction of the second phase officially commenced on 7th August 2023, following the handover to a new contractor on 25th July 2024. With all systems in place, the project is on course to meet its expected deadline, paving the way for the LVBC to enhance its operations and contribute to the sustainable development of the Lake Victoria Basin region.



Lake Victoria Basin Commission under construction



PS SDPW, Executive Secretary LVBC, SDPW HODS and LVBC Managers at the current LVBC office in Kisumu



SPDW, LVBC and the contractor team during a joint site inspection activity



PS, SDPW HODS conducting a site inspection

PS, Technical Heads Visit Nyanza Regional Works Office



PS Leading a site visit at one of the projects in Nyanza Region

By Dennis Mochama

During his recent inspection tour of projects in the Nyanza Region, the Principal Secretary (PS) made a key stop at the Nyanza Regional Works Office to engage with the staff and address their concerns. Leading a delegation senior officers from the State Department's Headquarters in Nairobi, the PS chaired a meeting that underscored the need for professionalism, responsibility, and accountability within the department.

In his address, the PS encouraged the regional staff to uphold the highest standards of work ethics and service delivery, emphasizing the critical role they play in the success of public infrastructure projects. He expressed his confidence in the team but reminded them of the need for unwavering dedication to the public good.

Accompanying the PS was Chief Architect Lawrence Mochama, who also addressed the technical staff. He highlighted the importance of familiarizing themselves with the newly launched National Building Code 2024, which introduces updated standards and practices for the construction industry. Mr. Mochama urged the team to ensure their knowledge and skills are up-to-date, enabling them to deliver quality projects that comply with the latest regulations.

The officers were also challenged to assert their authority in the region, ensuring that only qualified professionals offer services within the sector. The PS stressed the importance of eliminating quacks and unqualified individuals who compromise the quality and safety of construction projects. By doing so, the regional office would safeguard the integrity of the profession and protect public interests.



Above: PS addressing Nyanza Region Public Works Staff

Below: Chief Architect addressing Nyanza Region Public Works Staff

Additionally, the PS encouraged the regional staff to collaborate closely with the County Works Offices within the region, offering technical support when necessary to ensure the successful execution of projects. This partnership, he noted, is crucial in achieving cohesive and standardized project delivery across the counties.

“Accountability and professionalism are key pillars in driving the success of public works in the Nyanza region and beyond.” PS Arumonyang

The visit highlighted the leadership's commitment to strengthening regional offices and ensuring they operate at the highest level of efficiency and competence. The PS's message was clear: accountability and professionalism are key pillars in driving the success of public works in the Nyanza region and beyond.



Nyanza Region Public Works Staff with PS

Launch Of The 2024 National Building Code By PS. Arumonyang



Left: PS Arumonyang' during launch of the 2024 National Building Code. Middle: From Left, Prof Robert Rukwaro, Hon. Johana Ngeno, PS. Arumonyang', Ms. Mercy Okiro and Eng. Maurice Akech. Right: Unveiling of mobile materials laboratories.

By John Kinuthia

On July 17, 2024, the National Construction Authority (NCA) launched Kenya's updated National Building Code 2024, replacing the outdated 1968 regulations. The event, led by Public Works Principal Secretary Joel Arumonyang, included industry leaders such as NCA Board Vice Chair Mercy Okiro and NCA Executive Director Eng. Maurice Akech, Chair of National Assembly Committee for Housing, Urban Planning and Public Works Hon. Johana Ngeno and Building Code Committee Chairperson Prof. Robert Rukwaro.

The new Code provides a modern framework for Kenya's construction industry, emphasizing multi-hazard resilient designs, sustainable green construction, and the integration of digital connectivity and LPG connections in buildings.

Key features include disaster risk management standards to improve safety and eco-friendly building practices to reduce environmental impact. The Code supports innovation in construction materials and technologies, crucial for Kenya's affordable housing program. This initiative aims to offer quality housing while promoting economic growth.

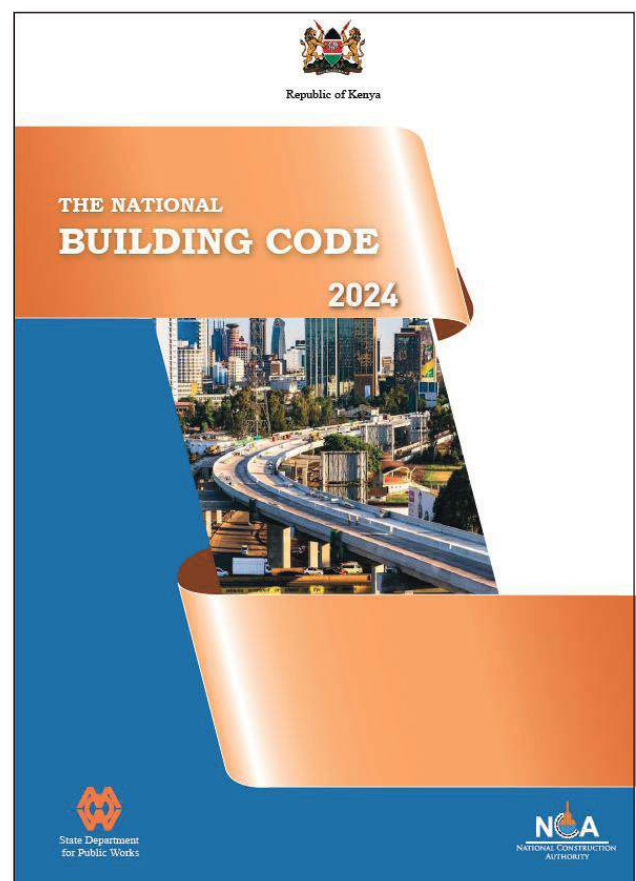
Principal Secretary Arumonyang highlighted the importance of the construction sector in Kenya's economy and the need for strong regulations to protect the public. Mercy Okiro emphasized that Kenya is now one of the few African nations with building codes addressing sustainability and climate change. Eng. Akech stressed the Code's adaptability to future advancements and announced a one-year transition period, during which the industry will receive training and guidance.

A significant moment during the event was the unveiling of three mobile materials laboratories. These mobile units, equipped with advanced technology, will enhance compliance with construction standards by providing on-site investigations and quality assurance. They also

have the potential to generate revenue by offering specialized testing services across Kenya.

The National Building Code 2024 is expected to drive innovation, improve safety, and promote environmental sustainability, marking a key step forward for Kenya's construction industry.

Key features include disaster risk management standards to improve safety and eco-friendly building practices to reduce environmental impact.





Public Works PS and State officers with construction project managers, interior designers, and landscape architects leaders after consultative meeting at Transcom House.
Below: Built environment professionals outside Works building.

National Building Code 2024: Strengthening Safety, Innovation, and Sustainability in Kenya

By Chief Architect Lawrence Mochama

The path to the National Building Code 2024 has been both lengthy and challenging, yet essential. Its official launch on July 17, 2024, following its publication on March 1, 2024 (LN47), marks a pivotal moment in transforming Kenya's built environment for the better. A building code is a set of regulations that establish minimum standards for the design, construction, maintenance, and safety of buildings and structures. Its primary goal is to safeguard public health, security, and welfare in relation to buildings and related infrastructure.

The National Building Code 2024 replaces the outdated Local Government (Adoptive By-Laws) Buildings Order of 1968, which had failed to address emerging challenges, new building technologies, and processes. Calls for a revision began after Kenya's first recorded building collapse in 1986. Unfortunately, building codes are often created as a response to disasters rather than as a preventive measure. Historically, building codes have been developed in response to tragedies, such as the Roman Empire's building regulations following collapses in 64 AD, or the ancient Code of Hammurabi, which imposed severe penalties for negligent construction.

The adoption of Kenya's 2010 Constitution and the County Governments Act of 2012 further reshaped the regulatory framework, replacing the outdated Local Government Act. In recent years, the importance of building codes as tools for protecting lives and enhancing community resilience has gained widespread recognition.

The National Building Code 2024 encourages innovation, creativity, and responsiveness to challenges like climate change, disasters, green building practices, and sustainability. It is performance-based, aiming to promote coordinated development, professionalism, and the use of advanced technologies in construction. However, its success will depend on collaborative efforts from all stakeholders.

Publishing of the Code and its subsequent launch elicited legitimate concerns from some of the critical players: construction project managers, interior designers, and landscape architects. A lot of investment has gone to growing these skills and all effort must be put to extract full potential from them during implementation/enforcement of the Code. As sensitization programmes are developed and public awareness raised, the appropriate legislative and regulatory actions will be pursued to make the 25 parts 517 paragraphed Code with 2 Schedules succeed.



Official Launch of **National Building Code 2024** Training and Sensitisation Program



Above: CS. Hon Wahome, EGH, Public Works PS Hon. Arumonyang, CBS, and State officers during the launch of the National Building Code 2024 Training and Sensitization program.

Side: CS. Hon Wahome, EGH, Public Works PS Hon. Arumonyang, Ms. Mercy Okiro

The official launch of the highly anticipated National Building Code 2024 Training and Sensitisation Program took place on 24th January 2025 at the Bomas of Kenya, marking a pivotal moment for the country's construction industry. The launch was officiated by Hon. Alice Wahome, EGH, Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing, and Urban Development. The event also saw the attendance of several distinguished figures, including Hon. Joel Arumonyang, CBS, Principal Secretary of Public Works; Mercy Okiro, Chair of the NCA Board of Directors; Eng. Maurice Akech, NCA Executive Director; Hon. Johana Ngeno, Chair of the National Assembly Committee for Housing, Urban Planning, and Public Works; along with Board Members, representatives from various government institutions, and professional bodies connected to the construction industry. This

nationwide initiative aims to ensure a deeper understanding of the newly updated Building Code and its successful implementation across Kenya.

Running from January 27, 2025, to March 10, 2025, the program will engage stakeholders from across the construction sector, including contractors, architects, engineers, developers, and policymakers. Through a series of comprehensive training sessions, participants will gain valuable insights into the changes and enhancements made to the Building Code, ensuring they are fully equipped to meet the new regulatory standards.

The National Building Code 2024 is a critical regulatory framework that sets the foundation for safe, sustainable, and high-quality construction across the country. The updated code addresses modern challenges in the industry, including environmental sustainability,

safety standards, and structural integrity, while also aligning Kenya's building practices with international norms.

This program represents a significant step in the development of Kenya's infrastructure, promoting best practices and fostering a culture of compliance that will ultimately benefit communities nationwide. By involving all key stakeholders, the initiative ensures that the transition to the new standards is well-coordinated and impactful.

With the launch of this program, Kenya is poised to strengthen its construction industry, ensuring safer and more sustainable buildings for future generations. The sessions are expected to be a great opportunity for knowledge sharing, collaboration, and enhancing the professionalism within the sector, ultimately contributing to a stronger and safer built environment for all Kenyans.



NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY



ICORCE 2024

International Construction Research Conference and Exhibition



ICORCE 2024 IN PHOTOS

Photos Courtesy: NCA



Public Works PS Leads Staff In A Tree Planting Exercise In Laikipia County



The State Department has a target of planting 20 million trees in the next three years...

*Public Works PS during the tree planting exercise in Laikipia County
Below: Public Works with Laikipia County Officials*

By John Kinuthia

The State Department for Public Works Principal Secretary Mr. Joel Arumonyang' led his staff and those from the State Department for Housing as well as local people in a tree planting exercise in Igwamiti Ward, Manguo area Laikipia County where over 4,000 saplings were planted.

This was a follow-up exercise to a similar one which took place about a month ago in the same county where the Cabinet Secretary for Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development Alice Wahome and staff from her ministry were joined by local wananchi in planting 15,000 trees.

Mr. Arumonyang' said his Department has a target of planting 20 million trees in the next three years noting that the Ministry would soon establish its own tree nurseries as well as support existing ones by purchasing the saplings from them in efforts to reach the target. The Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development, the PS added is working closely with Laikipia and Nyeri county governments in tree planting exercises to mitigate the effects of climate change.

The PS said climate change was a real threat to mankind adding that his State Department was

collaborating with UN organizations and other relevant bodies to promote development of resilient buildings with low carbon emissions.

On the reviewed National Building Code 2024 which was recently approved by both houses of Parliament, the PS said it will address among other issues haphazard construction of buildings, ensure the needs of people living with disabilities are included in building designs as well as resilient buildings that make use of technology for hazard mapping to predict disasters.

The event was also attended by The Laikipia County Commissioner Mr. Onesmus Kyatha, County Secretary, Mr. Koinange Wahome and the Igwamiti MCA Irene Wacuka among others.



Site Inspection at Proposed Kasagam Police Station



A team from the State Department for Public Works led by PS, Hon. Joel Arumonyang during a consultative meeting with Energy and Infrastructure Committee of Council of Governors

Rehabilitation Of Manda Jetty – Lamu County

By Eng. Benjamin Mwangi

The rehabilitation of the Manda Jetty was one of the State Departments key projects in Lamu county aimed at improving transport infrastructure across the country. This will ensure safe and efficient operation of boats.

The works were located in Manda Island near Manda airport in Lamu County. The Jetty connects Manda airport to Lamu town, mainland and other islands in Lamu county. This is the only jetty on Manda island and visitors, especially tourists to Lamu use this jetty to disembark from or board boats to and from Manda airport.

With the expansion of the jetty, more boats can now be accommodated as well as ease for travellers and cargo coming in and out of Lamu.

The jetty has been greatly improved and a new ramp for the physically challenged constructed, a newly done ramp to ease offloading of cargo boats

in docking and anchoring as well as the construction of a 220 metre seawall coupled by a concrete paved walkway and staircases.

The project was funded jointly by the Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) and the State Department for Public Works. Design, construction supervision and project management was undertaken by the State Department for Public Works.

SCOPE OF THE WORKS

The project involved:

- Construction of 220m long Manda seawall
- Construction of an access ramp for the physically challenged.
- Repair of existing Jetty.
- Construction of additional staircase on the Jetty.

Project was completed ahead of schedule on 7th April, 2020 and is now in use.



After - New Seawall constructed



Reconstructed Manda Jetty in use

Reconstruction Of Lamu Terminal Jetty Access – Lamu County

The works were located in Lamu Island, Lamu County. The Jetty serves as the main entry/exit from Lamu town from/to the mainland and other islands. The project was funded jointly by the Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) and the State Department for Public Works. Design, construction supervision and project management was undertaken by the State Department for Public Works.

SCOPE OF THE WORKS

The project involved:

- Demolition of an existing dilapidated timber jetty access.
- Construction of a new reinforced concrete Jetty access.
- Repair of the existing Jetty and adjacent seawall.

The project was completed and now in use.



Newly Constructed Terminal Jetty Access and repaired Lamu Seawall



Newly Constructed Terminal Jetty Access

Rehabilitation Of Mtangawanda Jetty

The previous dilapidated jetty comprising of a pontoon and access gangway was constructed by the local community under the CDF program. In the subsequent years, there was lack of maintenance. This led to deterioration of the pontoon and the gangways. The pontoon had detached from the anchoring pillars and had been condemned though the community was still dangerously using it for lack of a better alternative.

The Government of Kenya through the Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development (State Department for Public Works) rolled out the rehabilitation of the dilapidated Mtangawanda jetty in February, 2019. This jetty is

the main access to Pate island from the mainland and other islands through boats.

The project was funded jointly by the Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) and the State Department for Public Works. Design, construction supervision and project management was undertaken by the State Department for Public Works.

SCOPE OF WORKS

1. Driving of steel piles.
2. Construction of a reinforced concrete jetty deck with staircase.
3. Construction of a reinforced concrete ramp.
4. Repair of Mtangawanda seawall.



Mtangawanda Ramp



Mtangawanda Jetty and Ramp

KERUGOYA LEVEL 5 MECHANICAL INSTALLATIONS MEDICAL GAS PLANTS INSTALLATIONS

By Arch. Ken Kamau

Kerugoya Medical Complex is a level V facility of 500 beds capacity.

The mechanical designs were designed and implemented by engineers from the State Department for Public Works.

Mechanical works implemented include:

- Medical Gas Plants and Pipeline Installation.
- Solar Water Heating Works.
- Heating Ventillation & Air Conditioning.
- Plumbing and Drainage Works.



Medical Gas Terminal Units Installed On Bedheads



Anaesthetic Gas Scavenging System
1050L/Min Agss Plant
- Cpx Model



Medical Air System
2350L/
Min Duplex
Configuration
Medical Air
Plant Installed,
Tested And
Commissioned.

Proposed Construction Of Centre For Disease Control At Mirangine, Nyandarua County



Centre for Disease Control at Mirangine, Nyandarua County



By Arch. Kelvine Salasya

SCOPE OF WORKS

Erection of a 2-storey Centre for Disease Control comprising casualty, isolation wards, minor operating theatre, consultation rooms, 9No. specialized laboratories and associated support services.

Mechanical works

Plumbing & Drainage, Water Tanks and Medical gases installation.

- Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning.
- Incinerator Installation

Electrical works.

Electrical Installations works

- CCTV, Access Control & Structured Cabling.
- External & Civil Works
- Access road, walkways and parking.
- Storm water drainage.
- Landscaping and Septic tank

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Mitigating **Flooding** at **Lake Baringo**: The Proposed **Lake wall Project**

By *Amelia Chesinya and Linus Muema*

Lake Baringo, located in Kenya’s Rift Valley, is a significant freshwater lake positioned at an elevation of 970 meters above sea level. It has a catchment area of around 6,820 square kilometers, with annual rainfall varying between 600 mm and 1,500 mm. The lake is near the saline Lake Bogoria and is nourished by perennial rivers such as Molo and Perkerra, along with seasonal rivers including Ol Arabel and Makutan.

Despite substantial inflows, Lake Baringo has no visible outlet; instead, its waters likely seep through sediments into the underlying volcanic rock. This lake plays a vital role in local ecosystems, supporting seven freshwater fish species, including the endemic Nile tilapia subspecies *Oreochromis niloticus baringoensis*. It is also a haven for over 500 bird species, attracting birdwatchers with sightings of flamingos, pelicans, and African fish eagles, alongside a diverse array of wildlife such as crocodiles and hippos. Economically, Lake Baringo is essential for local communities, providing livelihoods through fishing, agriculture, and tourism.

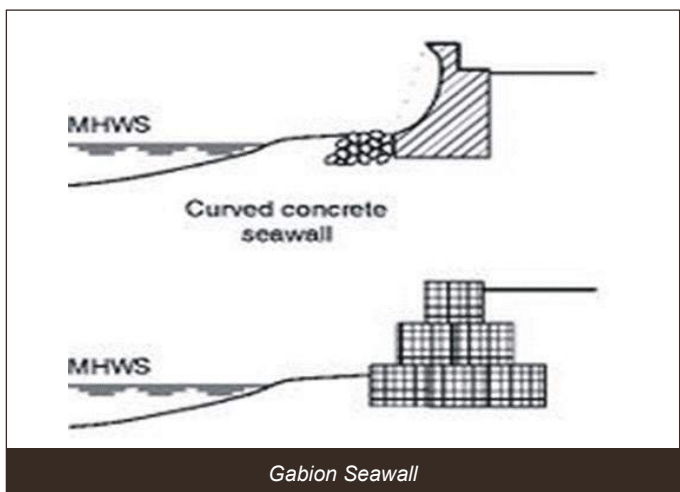
However, in the past decade, rising water levels have caused significant flooding, affecting around 108.57 square kilometers and displacing numerous settlements. Many families have relocated multiple times as the lake continues to expand, reportedly doubling its area since 2010 to about 26,000 hectares.

A multi-agency team was established in response to these changes, and research has linked the rising levels to climate change, which alters precipitation and exacerbates extreme weather. In 2022, local communities filed a legal petition addressing the impacts of climate change-related flooding. In response, the State Department for Public Works proposed a lakewall project aimed at mitigating flooding risks.

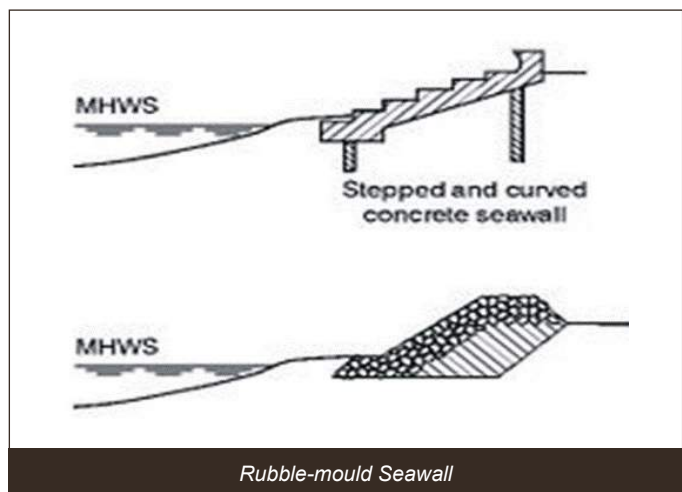
This initiative would involve constructing a reinforced barrier around the lake to control water levels, requiring substantial investment and support from international donors. The project aims to protect livelihoods, promote economic stability, and enhance community resilience in the face of climate change challenges.



Flooding caused by rising water levels affecting Lake Baringo local ecosystems



Gabion Seawall



Rubble-mould Seawall

Safeguarding Lives and Infrastructure: The Role of the National Buildings Inspectorate in Kenya

By Kennedy Matheka

In response to the increasing frequency of natural disasters, urbanization, and climate change, global efforts have focused on enhancing disaster resilience in the building sector. In Kenya, building collapses have caused significant loss of life, health risks, and economic damage. These collapses are primarily due to poor workmanship, substandard materials, inadequate supervision, and lack of maintenance. The rising frequency of such incidents led to the establishment of the National Buildings Inspectorate (NBI) to improve building safety and disaster mitigation.

The construction sector is a key part of Kenya's economy, growing by 3.8% in 2023. As a disaster-prone country, Kenya has implemented legal frameworks like the Kenya Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy and the Disaster Risk Management Policy to

reduce disaster risks. The NBI, established in 2015, coordinates disaster risk reduction and promotes resilient infrastructure, following global frameworks like the Sendai Framework.

An audit of 14,895 buildings revealed over 700 deemed dangerous, and since 1990, more than 200 lives have been lost due to building collapses. To address these issues, the NBI has focused on improving building safety through regulatory reforms, establishing construction and maintenance standards, coordinating inspections, supporting the maintenance of aging buildings, promoting innovation, and protecting the public from unqualified consultants. These efforts aim to create a safer, more resilient built environment, supporting economic growth and climate-friendly infrastructure.

Government Responds To El Nino Devastation With Extensive Mitigation and Recovery Efforts

By Diana Watila

In response to the El Niño rains forecasted for October 2023, the Kenyan government took steps to mitigate flooding. However, over 29 counties, including Kilifi, Kwale, Lamu, and others, faced severe flooding, causing significant infrastructure damage and public safety concerns. The National Building Inspectorate (NBI) conducted inspections, particularly in schools and public facilities, where damage was most severe.

The NBI audit identified key issues:

1. Sanitation Crisis: Collapse of pit latrines due to waterlogging and soil erosion.
2. Waterlogging and Accessibility: Difficulty in accessing schools due to severe waterlogging, especially near Lake Victoria.
3. Structural Damage: Buildings with torn roofs, flooded classrooms, and poor construction,

exacerbated by substandard materials.

To address these, the NBI recommended:

- Relocation of Flood-Prone Schools to safer areas.
- Enhanced Hydrological Studies to improve drainage in roads.
- Updated Pit Latrine Designs for safer, more durable latrines.
- Improved Roofing Standards with quality materials to resist wind damage.
- Landscaping and Civil Works to improve drainage.
- Reconstruction and Repairs for structural safety.
- Improved Access with raised roads and footbridges.

These measures aim to strengthen Kenya's infrastructure, improving resilience against future climatic challenges and safeguarding public safety.



Inspection in Coastal region



Structural Damage and Dilapidation

UJENZI



CS Hon. Alice Wahome
Cabinet Secretary



1



PS. Hon Joel Arumonyang
Permanent Secretary



QS. Nicholas Mutua
Works Secretary



Eng. Benjamin Mwangi
Chief Structural Engineer



Ms. Christine Songole
Chief Designer



Eng. Boniface Karobia
Ag. Chief Mechanical Engineer



Ms. Stella Nzau
Director, HRM & D



Arch. David Waititu
Ag. Chief Architect



Ms. Jane Otoko
Director, ICT



QS. Martin Wamae
Chief Quantity Surveyor



Mr. Mbogai Rioba
Secretary Administration



Eng. Maurice Akech
Executive Director, NCA



Ms. Amelia Chesyna
Head, Legal Affairs



Eng. Dr. Anthony Kihuga
Chief Electrical Engineer



Mr. Michael Lesimam
Head, Supplies Branch



Mr. John Kinuthia
Head, PRO



7



Arch. Oliver Okello
Director, KBRC



Mr. Hezron Wainaina
Ag. Director Economic, Planning



Mr. James Njogu
Head, SCM



8



Mr. Calvin Shavanga
Snr. Chief Finance Officer



Arch. Lawrence Gitau
Director, NBI



Mr. Mwongera Rukaria OGW,
Executive Officer, BORAQS



9

1. CS. Wahome, PS. Arumonyang with HoDs at Works Building
2. PS, Executive Secretary LVBC, SDPW HODS at LVBC office in Kisumu
3. Works PS, Lands PS receiving CS at Ministry's HQ
4. CS Wahome with HR Director Madam Stella Nzau
5. Group photo: CS, PS with stakeholder during the
6. PS, HoDs and members of staff pose for a photo after National Building code sensitization at Works Building
7. PS. Arumonyang with during a consultative meeting with Energy and Infrastructure Committee of Council of Governors
8. PS. Arumonyang addressing delegates at the inaugural Buildings And Climate Global Forum In Paris-France
9. Chief Architect Mochama addressing members of staff during the National Building Code Sensitiation workshop

Reconstruction of Mokowe Jetty: A Critical Infrastructure Revival For Lamu County



Mokowe waiting Shed

By Eng. Jackson Chepkwony

The Government of Kenya, through the Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development (State Department for Public Works), undertook the reconstruction of Mokowe Jetty in Lamu County. The jetty had deteriorated significantly, posing risks to residents and maritime activities, with the threat of collapse becoming imminent. To prevent disaster and ensure the continuity of this crucial transportation link, the government initiated a reconstruction plan.

The contract for the project was awarded on December 7th, 2018, with the contractor officially

taking over the site on February 1st, 2019. Located in Mokowe, a vital gateway to Lamu Island, the jetty serves as a key infrastructure for transportation, commerce, and access to the mainland.

The scope of the reconstruction was comprehensive. It included geotechnical site investigations and surveys, the demolition of the old jetty, and the construction of a new reinforced concrete jetty. Piles were driven into the seabed and encased in concrete to provide enhanced durability. Additional facilities such as a waiting shed, ablution block, and a separate fuel jetty were also built, along

with flood lighting to ensure safe operations at night.

The project was successfully completed and handed over on July 10th, 2024. The new Mokowe Jetty is now fully operational, playing a crucial role in supporting Lamu County's maritime activities, boosting tourism, and improving the livelihoods of local residents.

This initiative underscores the Kenyan government's commitment to infrastructure development and enhancing safety for coastal communities, ensuring that the jetty will continue serving the region for years to come.



Mokowe main jetty

Implementing team (Public Works with Contractor)

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REPUBLIC OF KENYA

BOARD OF REGISTRATION OF ARCHITECTS AND QUANTITY SURVEYORS (BORAQS) KENYA



BORAQS KENYA

PRESS NOTICE

01. PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATIONS FOR ARCHITECTS AND QUANTITY SURVEYORS

A. YEAR 2024 APPLICANTS

Applications are invited for the above examinations from eligible candidates from recognized universities, who will have attained a minimum of 24 months approved postgraduate experience as at, 14th March, 2025.

Applicants should apply through <https://boraqs.or.ke/application-form-for-professional-examinations-form-b1> The duly completed application to be submitted by 4:00 P.M on Friday, 14th March, 2025 accompanied by all the requirements.

Referees: All referees for the candidates must have at least 2 years post-registration experience.

B. PRACTICAL E-LOGBOOK PORTAL

Prospective candidates for Professional Examinations should apply on the Board's website www.boraqs.or.ke/logbook Please ensure constant and consistent endorsements.

02. NOTICE TO REGISTERED PERSONS SUPERVISING CANDIDATES

PUPILLAGE

All Architects and Quantity Surveyors are reminded to observe and adhere to By-laws 41, 42 and 43 and other provisions of the Architects and Quantity Surveyors Act Cap 525 of the Laws of Kenya.

MANUALS FOR ARCHITECTS AND QUANTITY SURVEYORS

All registered persons and the general public are notified that the Manuals for Architects and Quantity Surveyors are available at the Secretariat offices. Both the candidate and the trainer must each have the respective manual.

03. PUBLIC NOTICE

LIST OF ARCHITECTS AND QUANTITY SURVEYORS IN KENYA

Developers and the general public are advised to seek professional services from Architects and Quantity Surveyors in good standing with the Board. This is therefore to notify the general public that the list of Architects, Quantity Surveyors, Architectural firms and Quantity Surveying firms in good standing is available on the Board's website www.boraqs.or.ke/members. Any person or firm not listed on the website is NOT allowed by law to practice Architecture or Quantity Surveying. The general public is encouraged to confirm the registration status of their respective consultants with this Board.

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Dated 20th December, 2024

Infrastructure Development: Footbridge Projects Across Kenya

By Eng. Kigen Kipchirchir

The Government of Kenya, through the State Department for Public Works has undertaken and successfully completed several footbridge projects aimed at enhancing connectivity and improving the safety of residents in various regions. These footbridges, located in different counties, not only facilitate pedestrian movement across difficult terrain but also improve access to essential services and economic opportunities. Here's an overview of 4 completed footbridge projects designed and supervised by the State Department for Public Works.

1. Shakahola -Hawewanje Footbridge

Magarini Constituency in Kilifi County is embarking on a transformative infrastructure project to enhance regional connectivity and structural resilience. Key components include concrete column piling for stability, steel deck installation for efficient load distribution, and the construction of abutments and approach works. These efforts aim to improve access and safety for users. The project is expected to significantly benefit the local community by enhancing transportation efficiency and facilitating access to essential services. Additionally, it will create job opportunities and stimulate local economic growth. By focusing on sustainable construction practices, the initiative aims to uplift the socio-economic status of the Magarini community and support future development in Kilifi County.

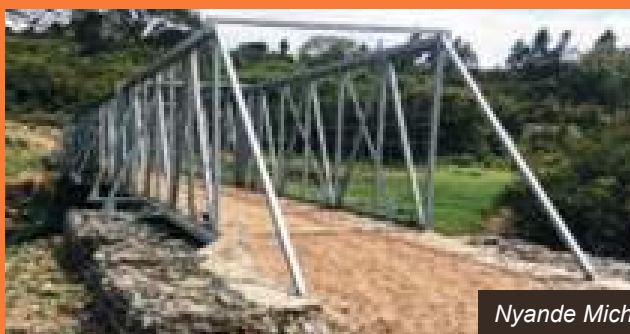


Shakahola- Hawewanje footbridge

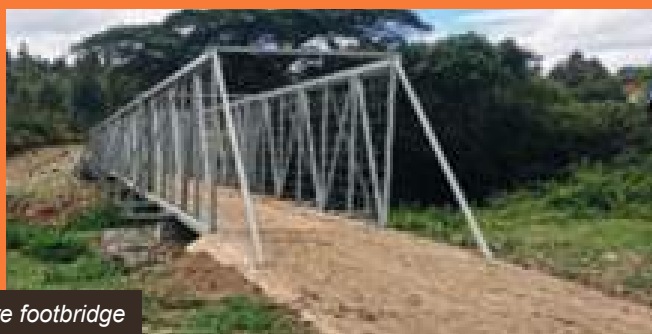


2. Nyande Michore Footbridge- Nyandarua County

The Nyande Michore footbridge located in Olkalou Constituency, Nyandarua County involved the construction of key elements including reinforced concrete bases and columns, steel decks for load distribution, and abutments for elevated structures, along with essential civil works to improve accessibility and safety. This initiative will benefit the community by enhancing transportation efficiency and access to services, promoting connectivity and economic growth. It is also expected to create job opportunities for residents, supporting sustainable development and uplifting the socio-economic status of the Olkalou community while paving the way for future development in Nyandarua County.



Nyande Michore footbridge



The successful completion of these footbridge projects reflects the Government of Kenya's ongoing commitment to improving infrastructure in both urban and rural areas. These footbridges provide vital links for isolated communities, enhancing accessibility, safety, and economic activity. Each project was designed and executed with long-term durability in mind, ensuring that these structures will serve the public for many years to come.

Huduma Kenya Projects Roundup

HUDUMA DIGITAL CENTRE-RUNYENJES, EMBU COUNTY

By Jefferson Nyakamba, Director Brand Development -Huduma Kenya



Site Visit at Huduma Digital Centre, Runyenjes, Embu County

On July 31, 2024, a joint team from Huduma Kenya and the State Department for Public Works conducted a site inspection at the Huduma Digital Centre in Runyenjes, Embu County. During the inspection, they assessed various aspects of the project, including site clearance, excavations, earthworks, filling to achieve desired levels and concrete works. The team expressed satisfaction with the progress made and the National Youth Service (NYS) committed to completing the work within the specified timeframe and meeting the required quality standards. This initiative will enhance public service delivery and empower the youth in the digital economy at the grassroots level.

HUDUMA CENTRE-KISUMU WEST, KISUMU COUNTY

By Dennis Mochama



Site Visit at Huduma Centre, Kisumu West, Kisumu County

Proposed Kisumu West Huduma Centre designed and supervised by the State Department for Public Works-Nyanza Region. Once completed it will offer various Government services to the people. The Centre will not only bring the services within easy reach of the local people but will also be a cost saving measure as it will bring an end to trips to Kisumu City for such services.

HUDUMA JITUME CENTRE-MOLO, NAKURU COUNTY

By Onkendi Thomas



Site Visit at Huduma Jitume Centre, Molo, Nakuru County

Huduma Jitume Digital Centre Molo, currently under construction at the DCC Office in Molo Town, is set to play a crucial role in reducing congestion at the Nakuru Huduma Centre. The project was designed and currently being supervised by the State Department for Public Works. Once completed, the Centre will not only ease the administrative burden at Nakuru County but also serve as a digital hub for the residents of Molo and surrounding areas. By providing enhanced access to digital services, the Centre aims to improve service delivery and support the community's technological needs.

State Department for Public Works officers inspecting construction works at Huduma jitume Centre-Molo, Nakuru county.



9th Floor Boardroom Renovation At Works Building

By Arch. Bulle Hirbo,

The design team managed to create this state-of-the-art boardroom by carefully considering technological integrations, ergonomic furniture, acoustics and design details. Striking a balance between functionality and aesthetic appeal, the boardroom is not only visually impressive but also fosters collaboration and productivity. Here's how they achieved this:

1. Timber for Acoustics and Aesthetics:

Privacy and sound management are crucial in any boardroom design. Timber, known for its aesthetic appeal and excellent sound-absorbing qualities, plays a key role in this space. The design incorporates timber acoustic sound panels, strategically placed to enhance both the visual and functional aspects of the boardroom. This choice minimizes noise distractions while allowing for customization in color, branding, texture, and shape, reinforcing the boardroom's appearance and brand identity. Additionally, double insulated gypsum walls ensure sound insulation and maintain confidentiality.

2. Ergonomic Furniture for Comfort:

Comfort is paramount in a modern boardroom, and the design team emphasized ergonomic furniture. Prioritizing ergonomic solutions ensures enhanced comfort and well-being, which in turn boosts productivity during meetings. The carefully selected furniture supports proper posture and reduces strain, allowing participants to focus without discomfort.

3. Advanced Audio-Visual and Video Conferencing:

Effective communication and collaboration are vital in a boardroom setting, achieved through top-notch

audio-visual and video conferencing technology. The boardroom is equipped with wireless speakerphone systems, an ultra-wide-screen monitor, and high-speed internet, enhancing video conferencing capabilities. These features ensure seamless collaboration among team members, whether in the room or remotely, making meetings more productive and engaging.

4. Daylighting and LED Lighting:

Lighting plays a significant role in creating a comfortable and efficient workspace. The design incorporates natural daylighting and LED lighting to create a balanced environment. Daylighting reduces reliance on artificial lighting, while LED lights provide a soft, consistent light that minimizes eye strain. Window blinds manage glare during presentations, allowing control over natural light.

5. Natural and Mechanical Ventilation:

Thermal comfort is another key consideration in the boardroom design. The team implemented a combination of natural and mechanical ventilation systems to ensure a comfortable temperature throughout the space. This approach enhances air quality and contributes to overall comfort, making the boardroom a more pleasant environment for extended meetings.

In summary, the design team's careful attention to detail has resulted in a boardroom that seamlessly blends technology, comfort, and aesthetics. By focusing on acoustic management, ergonomic furniture, advanced audio-visual systems, thoughtful lighting, and effective ventilation, they have created a space that not only looks impressive but also promotes collaboration, productivity, and well-being.



9th Floor boardroom during renovation



9th Floor boardroom after renovation



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State Department Implements BIM Technology

By Arch. Ken Kamau

What is BIM?

Building Information Modeling (BIM) is a transformative approach to creating and managing information throughout the lifecycle of a built asset. BIM is based on an intelligent, data-rich model that integrates multidisciplinary data and is supported by a cloud platform. This platform allows for the creation of a digital representation, or digital twin, of an asset, which spans its entire lifecycle—from planning and design through construction to operations. In essence, BIM is used for creating and managing data during the design, construction, and operational phases of a project. It facilitates the integration of data across multiple disciplines, creating a detailed digital representation that is managed within an open, cloud-based platform,



Training of SDPW technical staff on BIM technology

enabling real-time collaboration among project stakeholders.

By adopting BIM, project teams gain enhanced visibility, better decision-making capabilities, more sustainable design options, and significant cost savings in architecture, engineering, and construction (AEC) projects. The real power of BIM lies in its ability to allow architects, engineers, and contractors to collaborate on coordinated models. This collaborative approach provides stakeholders with a clear understanding of how their work fits into the overall project, ultimately increasing efficiency and reducing errors.



Training of SDPW technical staff on BIM technology

BIM at the State Department for Public Works (SDPW)

At the State Department for Public Works (SDPW), the technical department is actively working to implement Building Information Modeling (BIM) alongside Project Management Systems, Document Management Systems, and Document Processing Systems. This initiative aims to streamline work processes and workflows, enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of project delivery.

Once fully implemented, BIM will unify the day-to-day activities of all officers in the technical department, consolidating everything into a single platform that can be accessed at any time. The days of calling or emailing an architect to share the latest drawings will soon be behind them. The BIM model will serve as the definitive source of truth for the project, ensuring that all stakeholders are on the same page and working from the most current and accurate data.

The transition to BIM at SDPW is already underway, with training sessions having been conducted for most officers. Many have become proficient in the technology, and moving forward, they will be expected to use BIM for all future projects. This move signifies a major step toward more efficient, coordinated, and transparent project management, promising improved outcomes for both the State Department and the broader construction industry. Through the implementation of BIM, SDPW is positioning itself at the forefront of modern project management, ultimately enhancing the delivery of public infrastructure projects across the nation.

This initiative aims to streamline work processes and workflows, enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of project delivery.

Advanced Construction Materials: Revolutionizing The Building Industry

By: Junior Qs Mohamed Hassan

Graphene-reinforced Composites.

Graphene-reinforced composites can open a new gateway for high performance, durability, and sustainability improvements in construction. Graphene is a single layer of carbon atoms that is arranged in the form of a hexagonal lattice; reducing its size to a very small number of atomic layers which will drastically change some of its electrical, mechanical, or thermal properties.

Graphene is a material with immense mechanical strength, electrical conductivity, and thermal properties. When integrated into construction materials, graphene gives those superior characteristics and creates a new pathway for construction innovation.

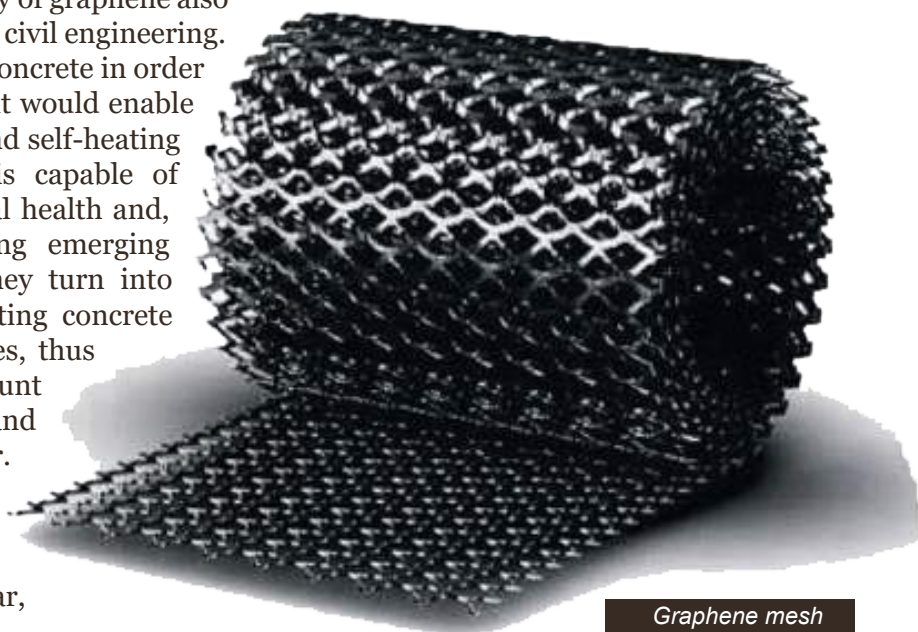
Graphene-reinforced composites deliver one giant plus in characteristics—tenderness to their somewhat extraordinary strength-to-weight ratio. Graphene is estimated to be approximately 200 times stronger than steel; nevertheless, it unbelievably is very light. Used as a reinforcing material to bind concrete, it can improve the tensile strength of the material immensely and construct lighter structures that become stronger. It improves the safety and durability of buildings. It reduces material consumption and, as a result, saves costs while allowing more efficiency in the use of resources.

The excellent electrical conductivity of graphene also opens up quite new perspectives in civil engineering. Graphene can be introduced into concrete in order to obtain conductive pathways that would enable the development of self-sensing and self-heating concrete. Self-sensing concrete is capable of tracking in real time the structural health and, therefore, occasionally discovering emerging cracks or stress points before they turn into a dangerous problem. Self-heating concrete can melt ice and snow on surfaces, thus allowing for a reduction in the amount of de-icing chemicals used and making driving safer during winter. Besides, graphene reinforced composites exhibit enhanced resistance to environmental degradation. In particular,

structures designed with these materials can easily be protected from exposure to water, chemicals, and elevated temperatures. In constructions, this highly minimizes the likelihood of their damage and hence leads to long-lasting and low-maintenance and repair buildings during their lifetime, thus fostering sustainability through the elimination of frequent renovations and replacements.

The application of graphene reinforced composites is also in line with the increasing focus on sustainability in the industry. Graphene can be produced in a very environmentally friendly way, and improved properties of graphene composites mean that it is possible to build with lower use of resources and carbon footprint, which is very much required for green buildings. This alignment with green building practices is essential as the construction field struggles to lower its impact on the environment

Graphene-reinforced composites will bring to life a more potent, sustainable, and long-lasting material for use in the construction industry. Comprising an essential place, these composites, therefore, will be really necessary for the future of construction by casting buildings that are safer and more resilient, therefore meeting the need for sustainability.



Graphene mesh

Women's Growing Role In Construction - Paving The Way

By Arch. Christine Jepkaitany Chelal

In the past, men have controlled Africa's construction business, but a notable change has occurred as more women enter and succeed in this field. This shift is particularly noticeable in Kenya, where more and more women are assuming a variety of responsibilities in the construction industry. Gender diversity has advanced significantly as a result of their accomplishments and efforts, which are shattering prejudices and encouraging younger women to think about pursuing professions in this field.

One of the main forces for this change in Kenya is the increase in female professionals and leaders in the construction industry. These days, women lead big infrastructure projects and accomplish important career milestones, setting an example for others.

Their accomplishments demonstrate that women are capable of succeeding in the construction industry and defying traditional gender stereotypes. As these women become more well-known, they mentor and inspire the younger generation, which has a trickle-down effect that draws other young women into the field.

The visibility of women in construction is being enhanced by a number of programs that are geared toward fostering equal opportunity for both men and women. Networking, advocacy, and training opportunities are offered by groups like Women in Real Estate (WIRE) and the Association of Women in Construction Kenya (AWCK).

These organizations play a crucial role in promoting laws that favor diversity and showcasing the successes of women in the profession. They utilize public awareness campaigns, apprenticeship programs, and workshops to help knock down the barriers that have historically kept women from working in the construction industry.

Even with these encouraging progress, challenges still exist. The building and construction industry continues to face challenges associated with bias against women, pay disparities, including inadequate facilities for female employees. Many women report to have faced discrimination and skepticism, which might impede their professional growth and discourages others from pursuing comparable occupations. To further promote inclusivity in the business, the physical demands of construction work and safety issues are frequently mentioned as obstacles that must be overcome.

In conclusion, gender equality in a historically male-dominated field has advanced significantly with the rise of women in Kenya's construction industry.



Electrical Engineer Victoria Mutunga giving instructions on site

The prominence and accomplishments of women in this domain are inspiring future generations to contemplate professions in building, progressively altering the structure of the sector. The progress that has been done thus far, despite ongoing hurdles, is evidence of the tenacity and resolve of women in the construction industry. Kenya's construction sector is positioned for more inclusivity and vibrancy in the future with sustained support and initiatives to advance gender diversity.



Arch. Claire Rono and Qs. Dorcas Kinyua giving site instructions

"I Believe women are innovators, especially in this industry, because they come from a new and fresh perspective."

-Mollie Elkama



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NATURE'S BLUEPRINT: How Biophilia is Shaping the Future of Construction!

BY Wangui Mwangi

Have you ever felt an inexplicable sense of peace when surrounded by nature? That's not a coincidence—it's called biophilia, our innate love for nature. I believe we are nature, deeply connected to all living and non-living things. Our ancestors knew this and lived in harmony with their surroundings, fostering a profound respect for both themselves and the environment. This balance mirrored their internal and external worlds. But today, we've lost touch with that connection, leading to countless issues—both within ourselves and in the world around us. Mental, emotional, and physical health problems are on the rise, just as our environment faces unprecedented degradation. Climate change is the biggest global ailment we face, a direct result of our disconnection from nature.

6 years ago, I landed my first job straight from the University, and it was a literal baptism by fire.

Do you know how what you learn in university is never quite what you find at work? My anxiety and stress were off the roof. To cope I would take a break from the office environment during the lunch hour break.

I would take a 30-minute walk in the neighborhood which was full of trees, and I noticed that my walks made me calm down and my afternoons were more relaxed, this became so common that as any Zillennial would do I googled: Does walking alongside trees reduce your fear of work and why is that? This led me to discover the word, theory, and science of biophilia.

Think about it: How many of us enjoy sleeping when it's raining? How many feel relaxed and at peace around a bonfire? How many of us love walking under a canopy of trees or taking a stroll in a forest while feeling the gentle breeze and finally how many of us find joy in dipping our feet in the water of a flowing shallow

stream? If you've answered yes to any of these, you're experiencing biophilia. But what exactly is it?

Biophilia is our innate love for nature, a concept introduced by German psychologist Erich Fromm and later developed by biologist Edward Wilson. Wilson proposed that our deep connection with nature is a result of our ancestors' long history of relying on natural environments for survival: food, shelter, and resources, and this bond with the natural world became ingrained in our DNA shaping our preferences and behaviors to date.

Stephen Kellert, a professor in social ecology, expanded on biophilia. Creating: biophilic design. He came up with elements and attributes of incorporating biophilic design in our built environments and showcased research on the impact of biophilic design on our health and well-being e.g. faster recovery rates of patients, improved mental health,

stress reduction, better sleep quality, boosted creativity, just to mention a few. Wangui here is on a mission to Africanize Biophilia.

Biophilia has taken center stage in my life. Over the years, I've delved into countless studies, marveling at the research and benefits—reduced stress and blood pressure, enhanced cognitive function, faster healing rates, improved workplace well-being, better student learning, increased urban biodiversity, economic gains for developers, and sustainable buildings. Despite all this, our urban environments have become concrete jungles, with nature relegated to mere decoration. This disconnection inspired me to champion biophilic design in Kenya, to rekindle our lost bond with nature.

Researching on both biophilic design and traditional African architecture I realized that our ancestors practiced biophilic design.

They implemented the 6 elements of biophilic design as we know them:

1. Incorporating environmental features e.g., natural local materials like mud, thatch, and wood were used promoting sustainable building practices.
2. Incorporating natural Shapes and Forms: Rounded huts, conical roofs, and curvilinear designs imitated the forms of hills, trees, and animal habitats.
3. Natural Patterns and Processes e.g. use of fractals (repeated patterns varying in scale) in design as observed in nature.
4. Light and Space: Courtyards and verandas blurred the distinction between indoors and outdoors, providing a seamless connection with nature.



5. Place-Based Relationships: Buildings were positioned in harmony with the local topography, water sources, and community activities.
6. Evolved Human-Nature Relationships: Traditional African communities had a profound spiritual and cultural connection with nature. The architecture was not merely a functional structure but a reflection of this evolved relationship. Building designs incorporated sacred spaces, symbolic elements, and rituals that celebrated and honored the natural world.

In the current age of climate change, biophilia poses as a great tool for climate mitigation and long-lasting sustainability. Green movements are doing a commendable job in reducing the environmental impact of buildings; however, you are more inclined to take care of things people, and spaces you feel most connected to and that is achieved by biophilic design, through its elements and attributes. Want to dive deeper into biophilic design, its elements, and how they can be adapted to an African context? Connect with me on LinkedIn!

Promoting Circular Economy And Sustainable Development In Kenya's Building Services: The Role Of Public Works In Shaping A Sustainable Business Environment

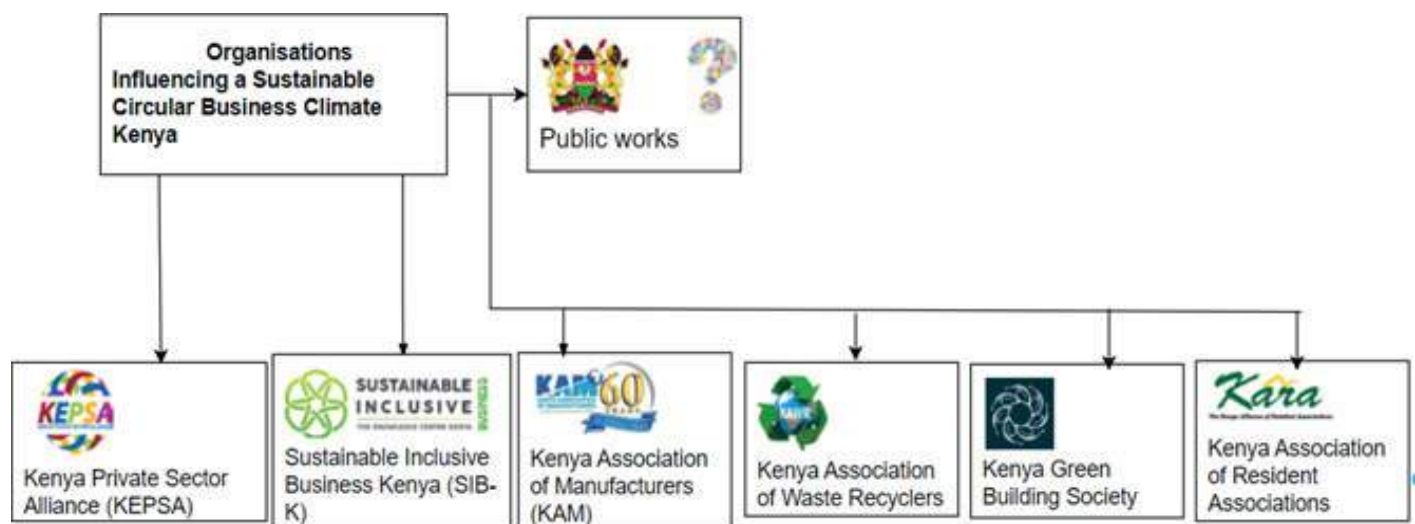
By Winnie Atieno Onyango

The depletion of natural resources and the shrinking availability of virgin materials are direct consequences of the take-make-waste approach that dominates current global production systems. This linear model of resource extraction and consumption starkly contrasts with internationally recognized goals for sustainable production and consumption. As the need for more sustainable practices becomes urgent, the concept of a Circular Economy (CE) is gaining traction, supported by various laws and legal frameworks.

In Kenya, several governmental bodies, including the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), Public Complaints Committee (PCC), National Environment Tribunal (NET), and others, are instrumental in promoting environmental sustainability. These agencies have introduced various regulations, such as the Sustainable Waste Management Act, which mandates county governments to implement sustainable waste management laws by July 2024. However, the Act's enforcement has been uneven across counties, raising concerns about its effectiveness. Although the Act provides a robust legal framework, challenges remain in its execution, particularly in NEMA's ability to monitor compliance across all counties. Additionally, the Act's approach to penalizing public bodies is less stringent than for commercial entities, shifting responsibility to individual managing officers rather than the institutions themselves.

Another key initiative is the new guidelines introduced by the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) for building materials, aimed at ensuring the construction of durable and safe structures. These standards are enforced through market surveillance and product certification, ensuring compliance and the removal of non-compliant products from the market. To further support the goals of a circular economy, it is crucial for the State Department of Public Works to be involved in adopting sustainable building materials that meet these standards. The updated National Building Code 2024 addresses previous shortcomings by incorporating modern building technologies and international standards, focusing on quality, safety, and environmental sustainability.

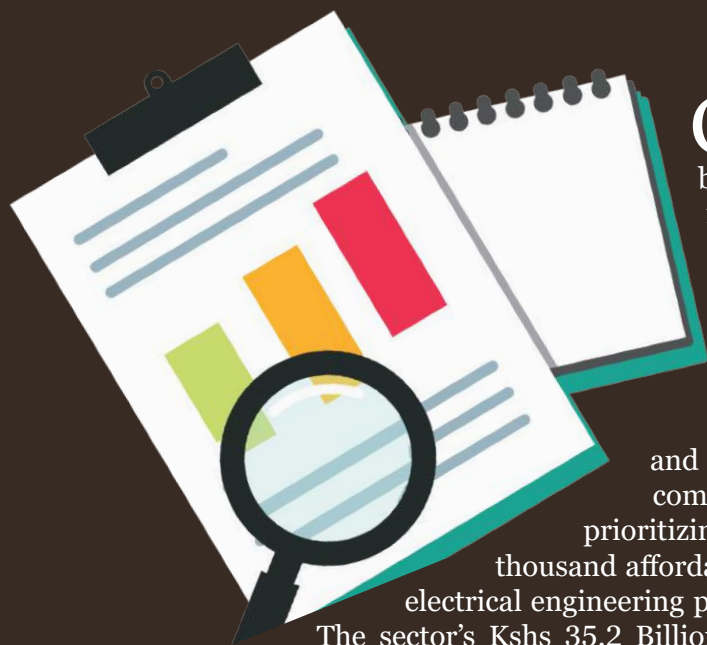
Public works must lead the way in promoting the use of CE-compliant products in construction, encouraging innovation in design, materials, and technology. By embracing recycled and innovative materials, Kenya can align with the NEMA 2016 CE model, contributing to sustainable development. The shift towards a circular economy represents a transformative opportunity for waste management and sustainable growth. As Kenya advances in this direction, it is vital to promote circularity and work collectively to close the loop, paving the way for a more environmentally conscious and resilient economy.



Electrical Engineering Services in Built Environment - Opportunities for Electrical Engineers in the Affordable Housing Program

Eng. Joel Nadebu Ouma¹, Eng. Japheth Davies Bwire².

ABSTRACT



Cases of electrical shocks and accidents, some of whom are fatal, at residential and commercial buildings have been on the rise in the recent days. Similarly, inadequate implementation of electrical engineering services in Built environment has been witnessed over time and especially with the ever-dynamic technological advancements. Gaps in legal frameworks, inadequate capacity at regulatory agencies and lack of published records, unscrupulous business people, and aging structures among others are challenges leading to occurrences of electrical accidents and calamities in the built environment. The government's commitment towards addressing the housing shortage and prioritizing the agenda of setting up at least two hundred and fifty thousand affordable housing units annually is a key indicator that indeed electrical engineering practitioners will play a key role in the built environment.

The sector's Kshs 35.2 Billion budgetary allocation in the financial year 2023/2024 according to National treasury will also open economic doors to unemployed engineers.

Keywords: Affordable Housing, Built Environment, Electrical Engineering, Opportunities, Safety.

1. Introduction

Housing Agenda is one of the key pillars of the Government of Kenya's Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) plan and is aligned to the Fourth Medium Term plan (MTP) of Kenya's vision 2030. The government of Kenya aims at delivering Two Hundred and Fifty affordable, low cost housing units annually with a budgetary allocation of Kshs 35.5 billion. Additionally the Housing agenda aims at creating over 100,000 jobs for youths including Engineers. This is a very great opportunity for the engineers to play their rightful roles in national prosperity and development. Key programs of the Housing Agenda include: Construction of markets, Construction of Housing units for National Police and Kenya Prisons, Kenya Urban Programme.

Table 1: Distribution of 2023/2024 budgetary allocations in Housing Agenda

Program	Allocation (Kshs)
Construction of Markets	5.1 Billion
Mortgage facilities	5.0 Billion
Construction of Affordable Housing Units	3.2 Billion
Kenya Informal Settlement Improvement Project – Phase II	5.6 Billion
Construction of Housing Units for National Police and Kenya Prisons	1.0 Billion
Kenyan Urban Program (KenUP);	7.2 Billion
Construction of Social Housing Units	3.3 Billion

Source: The National Treasury and Economic Planning- Financial year 2023/2024 Budget

For access to full research paper contact Author Eng. Joel Nadebu Ouma, joelnadebu@gmail.com

Embracing **Eco-Friendly Practices**: Sustainability In Local Furniture Production

By Christine Songole

As global environmental consciousness rises, industries are increasingly adopting sustainable practices, with Kenya leading the way in sectors like furniture production. This shift is driven by heightened awareness of ecological issues and the importance of supporting local industries.

Key Concepts in Sustainable Production

Sustainable Development emphasizes meeting current needs without jeopardizing future generations. Sustainable Use involves managing natural resources to ensure their availability over time.

Core Elements of Sustainable Local Furniture Production

Sustainable Use of Natural Resources:

Wood remains a primary material, necessitating practices like afforestation to ensure future availability and ecosystem preservation.

Alternative Raw Materials:

The industry is increasingly using reclaimed wood and waste materials, reducing the demand for new resources and conserving forests.

Sustainable Production Methods:

This includes maximizing resource efficiency, utilizing renewable energy, and implementing eco-friendly waste management to minimize environmental impact.

Engaging Local Labor:

Involving local artisans supports socio-economic development and enhances productivity through training.

Regulatory Support:

Legislation, such as the Environment Management and Coordination Act, promotes sustainable practices.

Conclusion

Sustainable local furniture production in Kenya integrates environmental awareness with community engagement, setting the stage for a more inclusive and vibrant future for both people and the planet.



Photos Courtesy: Marketing Dept. Kenya Prisons HQ, Magereza Hse

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Public Works top management with newly inducted members of staff at KSG lower Kabete campus.

HR ACTIVITIES ROUND-UP

By Stella Nzau

The HR Directorate has been actively involved in several strategic initiatives aimed at enhancing the State Department's workforce. The major activities undertaken recently include promotions, appointments, transfers, and training programs.

1. Promotions

The HR Directorate has successfully facilitated the promotion of 13 officers across various cadres, as approved by the Public Service Commission (PSC). These promotions serve to reward performance, address staff gaps, and enhance operational efficiency within the department.

2. Appointments

The Public Service Commission appointed 13 officers to different roles within the State Department. This process was critical in addressing the acute shortage of staff that had affected the department's ability to deliver services efficiently.

3. New Appointments

The HR Directorate also oversaw the recruitment of new officers in key roles, further strengthening the workforce. The appointments were as follows:

- Architect I: 29 officers
- Engineer II Mechanical: 20 officers
- Engineer II Electrical: 16 officers
- Artisans III: 3 officers
- Office Assistants: 13 officers
- Drivers: 6 officers

These appointments reflect the State Department's commitment to filling vital technical and support roles, ensuring it has the capacity to meet its objectives.



HR department members of staff with Director, Madam Nzau

4. Ministerial Transfers

The Directorate facilitated both incoming and outgoing ministerial transfers to optimize workforce distribution:

- Incoming Transfers: Seven officers were transferred from other ministries to the State Department, bolstering its human resources capacity.
- Outgoing Transfers: Two officers were transferred from the State Department to other ministries, reflecting collaborative efforts across government agencies.

5. Training and Development

Recognizing the importance of continuous workforce development, the HR Directorate placed significant emphasis on training and development. Employees were offered opportunities to participate in both local and foreign training programs, aimed at enhancing their skills and knowledge. These programs are critical in ensuring that staff remain well-equipped to meet the evolving demands of their roles.

The HR Directorate remains committed to building a robust, well-trained, and efficient workforce to support the State Department in fulfilling its mandate effectively.



Assets Recovery Authority office partition



Embu Complex



Multi Media Uni. Complex



Prisons Housing in Meru



Nairobi School Dormitory



Kongoni Primary School

Highlight of some of the projects designed and supervised by the State Department for Public Works



Before



After

Faza wall construction



Before



After

Faza wall construction



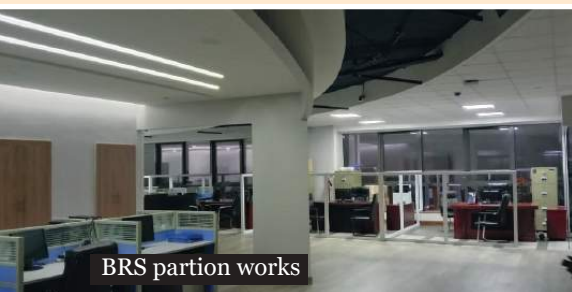
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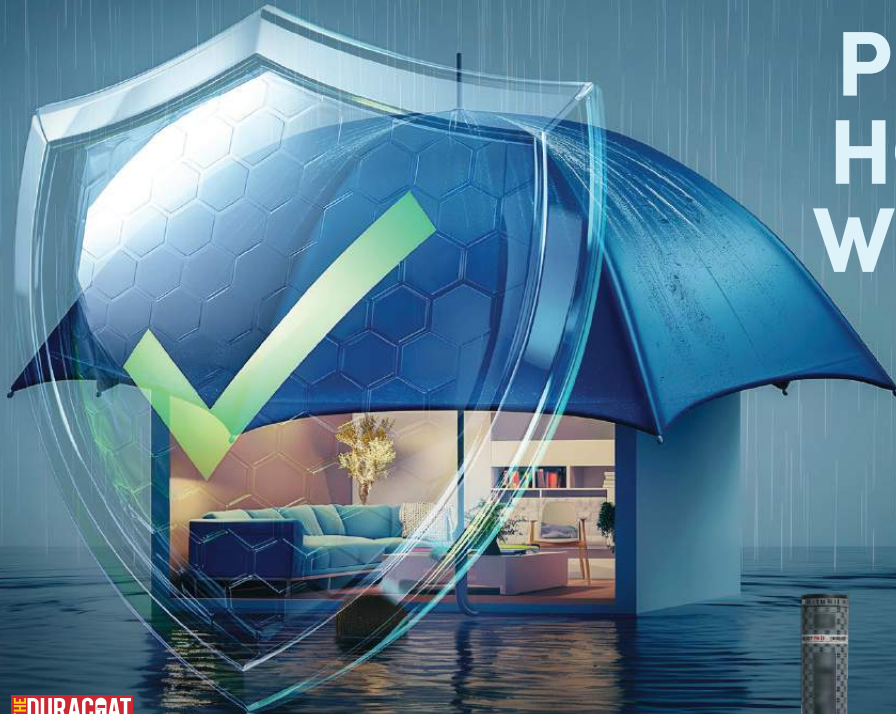
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